

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 520

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mary Virginia Mize
Anderson of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of our friend and former colleague Mary Virginia Mize Anderson, a member of the House of Representatives of the 83rd, 84th and 88th Tennessee General Assemblies, from 1963-1967 and 1973-1975, and a member of the Senate of the 85th Tennessee General Assembly, from 1967-1969; and

WHEREAS, a political pioneer for women, Mary Anderson was an exemplary and conscientious public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens, especially those of Davidson County, in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born February 2, 1921, in Davidson County, Tennessee, to Herman H. and Jessie Hartman Mize, Mary Virginia Mize Anderson attended Antioch High School; she received her Bachelor of Science degree from Middle Tennessee State University in 1942 and later performed graduate work at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Middle Tennessee State University, Oxford University in Oxford, England, and Stanford University; and

WHEREAS, a vivacious young lady who believed in her ability to achieve any task set before her, Mary Anderson became a pilot at the age of 21 and was Tennessee's first public school aerospace teacher, instructing students in aerospace science and mechanical and architectural drafting for the Metropolitan Nashville Public School System from 1958 to 1967; and

WHEREAS, Mary Anderson actually began her career doing engineering work for Nashville's Consolidated Vultee (aircraft), Victor Chemical Works (steel and concrete construction), and Murfreesboro's Air Utilities, Inc. (machine); and

WHEREAS, from 1959 to 1970, Mrs. Anderson served as an instructor during the summer at Middle Tennessee State University, and she was Assistant Director of the first International Aerospace Education Workshop held in seven European countries; and

WHEREAS, Administrative Assistant to the Tennessee Aeronautics Commission from 1968 to 1970, Mrs. Anderson authored the *Flight Instructor's Manual and Airman Flight Log* in 1971 and served as President of Aviation Management International, Inc. and manager of the Murfreesboro Municipal Airport from 1971 to 1972; and

WHEREAS, serving from 1975 to 1976 as a special assistant to the Lieutenant Governor of New York, Mary Anderson then accepted the call to Washington, D. C., joining the Carter Administration in 1978 to serve as Associate Administrator for Policy and International Aviation Affairs of the Federal Aviation Administration; and

WHEREAS, she served as Vice President for Government Relations for ICX Aviation of Washington, D.C. from 1979 to 1980 and later worked as an independent financial broker and served as President of Villas of Nashville, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, a relentless campaigner with the courage of her convictions, Mary Anderson served in the Tennessee General Assembly when few women sought election to public office; in addition to serving three terms in the House of Representatives and one term in the Senate, she campaigned for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination in 1970, the first female candidate to do so since 1936, and ran for Mayor of Nashville in 1983; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the Senate, Mary Anderson served admirably as a Chair of the Education Committee and as a member of the Conservation, Public Utilities and Transportation, Highways and Safety, and Public and Mental Health committees; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure in the House of Representatives Mary Anderson served as an esteemed member of the Legislative Council and Vice Chair of the Education Committee in addition to serving on the following standing committees: Business; Correctional Institutions; State Employees, Buildings and Public Works; Agriculture; Insurance and Banking; Local Government; and State and Local Government; and

WHEREAS, a vocal proponent for a broad spectrum of programs and special projects, Mary Anderson was especially passionate about education, improving election laws, and aviation; she was instrumental in drafting and securing passage of the enabling legislation that

established the Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority and was the driving force behind the creation of the Aerospace Department at MTSU; and

WHEREAS, Mary Anderson was a devout member of Waverly-Belmont Church of Christ, which she served faithfully for many years in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, respected for her wisdom and experience, Mrs. Anderson served on numerous governing boards for a variety of organizations, including Middle Tennessee State University, Nashville Public Television Council, Trustees of the Foundation at Tennessee State University, Children's Regional Medical Center at Vanderbilt Hospital, the Urban Transportation Council to the U.S. Secretary of Transportation and the special committee on air transport activities of Transportation Research Board, National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, she was a member of the National Aerospace Education Council, American Women in Radio and Television, Civil Air Patrol, the Ninety-Nines, Inc., the National Association of Women Legislators, League of Women Voters, Pilots International Platform Association, Delta Kappa Gamma, and Alpha Delta Kappa; and

WHEREAS, listed in *The World Who's Who of Women* and honored by Governor Buford Ellington for her *Study of the Needs of the Handicapped in Tennessee* in 1969, Mrs. Anderson was the recipient of numerous awards and honors during her lifetime, including the Certificate of Appreciation for Distinguished Service from WDCN Education Television and a professional award from the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs; and

WHEREAS, Mary Anderson was also deeply devoted to her family, and always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; she was preceded in death by her loving husband Kenneth B. "Skip" Anderson, her parents Herman H. and Jessie Hartman Mize, and her brother Claude F. Mize; and

WHEREAS, she is survived by her son, Kenneth M. Anderson, her daughter and son-in-law, Melinda A. and John Knott, and two grandchildren, John Knott and his wife Abby, and Rachel M. Knott, one great grandson, John Knott V, her sister, Gladys M. Miller, and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, greatly respected and deeply admired by her many friends and colleagues, Mrs. Anderson was not only a warm and gracious lady, but also a spirited fighter for any cause

she supported, taking great pride in making her community and state a better place for all; her unmatched record in public service stands as a monument to a life well lived; and

WHEREAS, Mary Anderson leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Mary Virginia Mize Anderson, a pioneering and inspirational leader, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character as a legislator, public servant, and human being, and commending her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mrs. Anderson.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.